

GATHERED IN LOVE'S CIRCLE

PRELUDE

Rachel Burlock

*** SOUNDING OF THE BELL**

As we hear the bell's invitation, we may rise in body or in spirit to welcome the Spirit of God!

*** GATHERING THE MANY IN FAITH**

Judy Brandon, Liturgist

One: The Spirit descends like a dove,
bringing peace to unite the world
in a just and caring community!

**ALL: Let every heart rejoice.
Let every soul be free.
And let all God's people say: MERCY!**

One: The Spirit comes like a breath,
bringing life and abundant hope
to renew the circle of creation!

**ALL: Let every heart rejoice.
Let every soul be free.
And let all God's creatures cry: WONDER!**

One: The Spirit spreads like fire from within,
bringing energy and grace that
all might witness to God's love.

**ALL: Let every heart rejoice.
Let every soul be free.
And let all God's people pray:
AMEN AND ASHE!**

*** A HYMN**

In the Midst of New Dimensions ■ NCH #391

CALL TO PRAYER AND DISCIPLESHIP

One: Where we have struggled this week, you have been our patience and strength.

ALL: Your love is deeper than the oceans and wider than the skies.

One: Where we have grieved this week, you have been sweet solace and support.



*"The days are surely coming,
says YHWH, when I will make a
new covenant with my people. It
will not be like the covenant that
I made with their ancestors when
I took them by the hand to bring
them out of the land of Egypt...
But I will put my law within
them, and I will write it on their
hearts; and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people..."*

Jeremiah 31

9 AM
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2026
COMMUNITY CHURCH OF DURHAM
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ALL: Your grace is tender and true, and our hope finds a home in you.
One: Where we have missed the mark, you have been our mercy and our peace.
ALL: Your way is forgiving, and your path is our salvation.

In a spirit of stillness, you're invited to pray the prayers of your heart in silence.

One: So it is that we are grateful and bold to pray:
ALL: Earth-maker, Life-giver, Pain-bearer,
Source of all that is and all that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God in whom is heaven:

May the hallowing of your name
ECHO THROUGH THE UNIVERSE!
May your heavenly will be done
by all creatures great and small!
And may your commonwealth
of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth!

WE PRAY AS ONE:

This version of JESUS' PRAYER was popularized by the Māori, the *tangata whenua* of Aotearoa Me Te Waipounamu (what is now New Zealand in the South Pacific).

With the bread we need this day, feed us.
For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.
By your grace and mercy, strengthen us through seasons of temptation,
and spare us from trials too great to endure.
Free us from bigotry and evil, for service and truth;
for you reign in **THE GLORY OF THE POWER THAT IS LOVE.**
Amen and Ashe!

Ashe ("a-shay") is a concept found in Yoruban culture (Nigeria/Africa):
an awareness of power, conferred by the Creator God, upon all beings and spirits.

ASHE!

Ashe is the power to make things happen, the power to do good, the power to effect change.
And it is a divine gift! In 2026, our African American friends across the church are using this as a companion to *Amen*.

Amen acknowledges God's presence and blessing. Ashe invokes God's partnership and power!

*** THE GREETING OF PEACE**

*** RESPONSE / “GLORY, GLORY HALLELUJAH” / NCH #2**

2

Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.
Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.

Binding up the brokenhearted, since I laid my burdens down.
Building up the ancient ruins, since I laid my burdens down.

Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.
Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.

ATTENTIVE TO GOD’S SACRED WORD

A READING FROM THE ANCIENT TRADITION

One: For the Word of God in scripture

ALL: We give thanks!

One: For the Word of God among us

ALL: We give thanks!

One: For the Word of God within us

ALL: We give thanks and praise to God

HOMILY

Peggy Kieschnick

*** A HYMN**

Be Now My Vision ■ NCH #451

GRATEFUL IN WITNESS, GENEROUS IN LOVE

A WELCOME TO COMMUNITY AND MINISTRY

INVITATION TO SHARING AND GENEROSITY

One: So let us pray for wisdom and mercy. Let us join in generous hope:

ALL: Holy One, Breath of Every Breeze,

Giver of All Good Things:

Release us from every fear and hesitation

that we may choose once again

the path of generosity and love!

One: So we will share our lives, and share our joy, and serve You together!

3

ALL: For all that we are, and all that we will be, is Your blessing.

SHARED RESOURCES MEANS SHARED MISSION

Gifts of all kinds are collected for our shared witness and the church's many ministries. Blank cards are also provided in the pews for an offering of self: to note places where you'll serve or respond to need, or to note that you've made your financial gift online.

OFFERTORY & OUR GATHERING OF GIFTS

Catherine York

*** SUNG RESPONSE ■ No. 780 (words, JKB)**

Praise God the Source, the Spirit Guide,
Praise Christ who promised to abide
Whose mercies for us never cease.
Praise God whose ways are love and peace.

CONNECTED, COMMITTED AND CALLED OUT

*** OUR COVENANT IN FAITH AND MERCY**

One: We are not alone, we live in God's world!

ALL: We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come to us in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

One: We trust in God, for God's love is a firm foundation!

ALL: We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve one another,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen, our liberator and our hope.**

One: In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us!

ALL: **We are not alone! Amen and Ashe!**

4

* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE—FOR THE MANY AND THE ALL

Gathered in God

For those who are **living with illness** or worry:

For communities **stressed by violence, injustice** and despair:

For those **seeking wisdom** in the midst of a challenge or change:

For those who are faithfully **working for justice** and peace:

One: This is [our] prayer.

ALL: *Great Spirit of God,
Hear our prayer!*

Held in Prayer and Silence

* PRAYER FOR UNITY AND PEACE / UNISON

ALL: Holy and Loving God, whose peace makes all things new,
our hearts are broken open and free, inspired by living hope,
and touched again by the power of Your Resurrection.

As children of the Risen Christ, we walk together,
siblings joined in one body, many branches of the same vine.
We pray that your kin-dom may come, on earth as in heaven.
Make us bold not for our own glory, but yours.

For in you, and through you, we are one people and one planet.
In you, and through you, we are called anew to love one another gladly and well. By your power, we go now together, into the universe of human need and hunger, to break bread and sing praise and feed the world.

One: Amen and Ashe!

ALL: Amen and Ashe!

* A HYMN

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens ■ NCH #557

* BLESSING & SENDING-FORTH

POSTLUDE

Catherine York

5

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2026

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF DURHAM, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

17 Main Street • P.O. Box 310 • Durham, NH 03824

603.868.1230 • www.ccdurham.org • office@ccdurham.org

Find us on FACEBOOK @CCofDurham

Find us on INSTAGRAM @communitychurchofdurham

TODAY'S ROAD MAP:

9 AM **WORSHIP** / in the Sanctuary

10:15 AM **FRIENDSHIP HOUR** / in the Fellowship Hall

Welcome! The Community Church is a dynamic & generous community of seekers, disciples and loving friends. As an Open & Affirming Congregation, we celebrate our many human paths to love, our many genders and identities, and the spectacular rainbow of races & backgrounds that make the world holy.

We're so glad you're here!

MAKING CONNECTIONS TODAY + All You Need to Get Started!

► **Tell Us About Yourself:** To jump on our regular mailing list, you have choices! You can fill out our online form, using the QR CODE (on the right), simply send us an email at office@ccdurham.org, or give us a call in the office at 603-868-1230. If you have a question or a need of any kind, don't hesitate to turn to a neighbor and ask.



► **Catching Up on Church News:** A wonderful way to keep up with news, programs and opportunities is to follow **our weekly E-NEWS**—which is published to your email each and every Thursday afternoon. The weekly letter includes news on upcoming worship, ongoing classes and programs, opportunities for mission and social justice witness and



so, so much more! Jump on our mailing list (see above) to receive this in your inbox.

►**Sharing Your Gifts:** We welcome your gifts, your spirit and your generosity—as we build a resilient church together, and support a range of expanding ministries of justice and com-passion here on the Seacoast. If you find it easiest, you can make a donation using the online form linked through the QR CODE (on the right). Your gift, like your spirit, is a gift to us all!

6

GROW IN SPIRIT + Living into the Blessing of Our Lives

►**Friendship Hosts Needed:** We're looking for hosts for our all-important Friendship Hour!

Whether you are new to the congregation or a long-time member, this is a great way to meet folks, build the beloved community, and engage others in our mission and ministry. You can reach the friendship hour team at friendshipsunday.ucc@gmail.com or contact Judy Brandon directly at judykbrandon@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

LOOKING AHEAD + Opportunities for Witness and Education This Fall

►**Genocide, International Law and Where We Go from Here:** We're honored to announce that **Omer Bartov**, the Dean's Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Brown University, will speak here at the Community Church on **Wednesday evening, September 23**. An Israeli-American scholar and one of the world's leading historians on the holocaust, Omer was one of more than 1,500 U.S., Israeli, Jewish and Palestinian academics and public figures to sign an open letter in 2023 stating that Israel operates "a regime of apartheid" in the occupied Palestinian territories and calling on U.S. Jewish groups to speak out against the occupation in Palestine. His appearance this fall is co-sponsored by Not in My Name (a Jewish network of peace activists) and South Church in Portsmouth.

►**Guns to Gardens: An Invitation to Disarm:** A small service team is working with the New Hampshire Conference to host a "Guns to Gardens" event here in Durham on **Saturday, October 17**. Friends and neighbors are invited to safely deliver unwanted weapons to the church parking lot—under trained supervision—and watch as these weapons are disassembled by trained volunteers. Most turn the parts over to jewelers, metal workers and artisans—who create usable items or pieces of art! It's a program that's been successful at sites across the country. Interested in working with us? See Don Smith or contact him at dwsmith1326@gmail.com.

Looking Ahead

Sunday, August 9 The 11th Sunday after Pentecost!

- 9 am Worship Celebration in the Sanctuary
 With Melissa Whaley, Preaching
- 10 am Friendship Hour in the Hall

INVITE A FRIEND, A NEIGHBOR...AND SHARE THE GIFT OF

COMMUNITY!

7



